

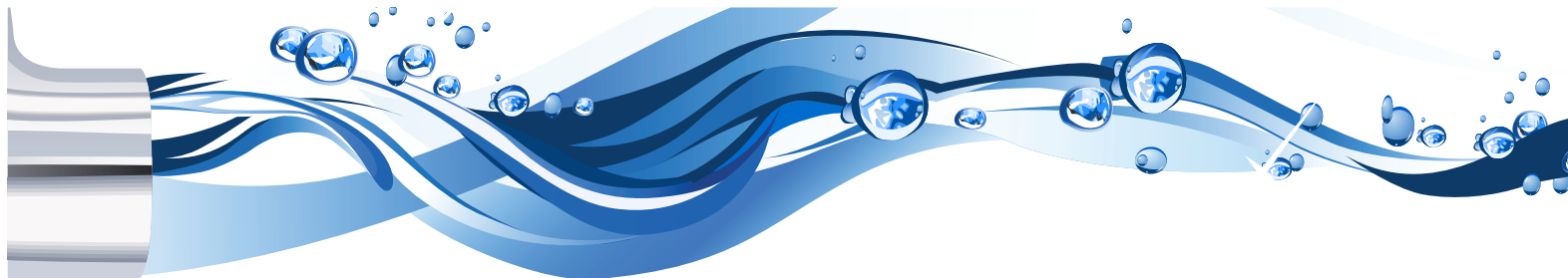


# 2010 Drinking Water Quality Report

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID: TX0210002



[cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water) [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water) [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water) [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water)



# 2010 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Your annual Drinking Water Quality report provides an analysis of recent tests required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and describes the efforts of College Station Water Services to provide you with reliable drinking water. Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports such as this one are required of every public water system to provide information to their water customers through the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. \* **College Station's drinking water system is rated "Superior" by the TCEQ and meets all state (TCEQ) and Federal (EPA) standards.** \*

## **Special Notice** for the *ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:*

-----  
If you fall into one of these populations, you may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791)**.  
-----

## **About bottled water**

All drinking water may contain contaminants. When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information, please contact College Station Water Services at 979.764.3660. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791).

## **Water at the source**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

## **Where do we get our drinking water?**

College Station's drinking water is obtained from groundwater sources, specifically the Simsboro and Carrizo formations of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Group, and the Sparta aquifer. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. Source water assessment information from the Texas Drinking Water Watch is available online at [tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/](http://tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/).



**DID YOU KNOW** the city saved over **\$3000** in printing costs on this mandatory report? You can save, too! Help the environment by recycling this document or sharing it with a friend.

**Want more? Find us online!**



**Scan with your smartphone or go to [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water).**

### **UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICE**

*Bill pay, connect / disconnect utilities*

**979.764.3535, 1.800.849.6623**

[epay.cstx.gov](http://epay.cstx.gov)

*Line breaks, sewer backups, power outages*

**979.764.3638 [24 hours]**

*Water presentations, field trips*

**979.764.6223**

**EN ESPAÑOL:** Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 979.764.3433 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

# 2010 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

## Inorganic Contaminants

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	HIGHEST AVG. DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION? Y/N	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2010	Fluoride	1.1 ppm	0.53 ppm - 1.24 ppm	4 ppm	2 ppm	N	Water additive to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
2010	Nitrate	0.04 ppm	0.04 ppm - 0.04 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

## Microbiological Contaminants <sup>1</sup>

Year Sampled	Total Coliform MCL	Total Coliform MCLG	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2010	Presence in ≥ 5% of samples in one month	0	1.87 %	1 positive sample	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

## Disinfectant Residual and Disinfectant By-Products

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	HIGHEST AVG. DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	MCL*	MCLG*	VIOLATION? Y/N	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2010	Chlorine	1.71 ppm	1.17 ppm - 1.99 ppm	4 ppm	2 ppm	N	Water additive to control microbes
2010	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	38.8 ppb	38.8 ppb - 38.8 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2010	Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	5.4 ppb	5.4 ppb - 5.4 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

\*Maximum contaminant level for chlorine is expressed as MRDL and MRDLG

## Lead and Copper <sup>2</sup>

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	90th PERCENTILE*	ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION Y/N	SITES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2009	Lead	1.8 ppb	15 ppb	N	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2009	Copper	0.16 ppm	1.3 ppm	N	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

\* College Station's water does not exceed the Action Level for Lead or Copper. 90% of College Station tap water samples measured at or below 1.8 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 0.16 parts per million (ppm) for copper. The Environmental Protection Agency considers the 90th percentile the same as an "average" value for other contaminants.

## Secondary and Other Non-Regulated Constituents <sup>3</sup>

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	DETECTED LEVELS	UNITS	LIMIT
2008	Alkalinity (Bicarbonate)	431	mg/L	No recommendation
2009	Alkalinity (Carbonate)	< 1	mg/L	No recommendation
2008	Alkalinity (Phenolphthalein)	< 1	mg/L	No recommendation
2009	Alkalinity (Total)	366	mg/L	No recommendation
2008	Chloride	51	mg/L	250
2008	Diluted Conductance	882	µmhos/cm	No recommendation
2008	pH	8.3	N/A	> 7.0
2008	Sulfate	12	mg/L	300
2008	Total Dissolved Solids	489	mg/L	1,000

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented below. Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) drinking water requirements.

<sup>1</sup> Total coliform bacteria are not disease-causing organisms themselves, but they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. They are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. In 2010, a total of 1,218 samples, at least 101 per month, were collected by Environmental Services personnel and analyzed by the Brazos County Health Department. Out of these 1,218 samples, two tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. The positive locations were immediately re-sampled and two additional samples adjacent to the positive locations were sampled. All repeat samples tested negative for the presence of Total Coliform Bacteria. In addition, Fecal Coliform Bacteria was not detected in any of these monthly tests. College Station maintained its perfect compliance record with the Total Coliform Rule.

<sup>2</sup> If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. This water supply is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

<sup>3</sup> Many constituents which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## Unregulated Contaminants

Our water system conducted unregulated contaminant monitoring with no detects reported. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information and data visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791).

## Public Participation Opportunities

City Council Meetings @ College Station City Hall  
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m. | call 979.764.3510

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call the City Secretary's Office at the number above, or College Station Water Services at 979.764.3660.

## Definitions

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**  
The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**  
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**  
The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**  
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL)**  
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**ppm**  
Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
**ppb**  
Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

# Q+A ON FLUORIDATION

## *When did fluoridation of our water supply begin?*

**A** College Station began adding fluoride to its drinking water in the late 1980s. Fluoridation was made possible through a grant from the Texas Department of Health (now called the Texas Department of State Health Services).

## *How much fluoride is in College Station drinking water?*

**A** College Station's drinking water contains a small amount of naturally-occurring fluoride, approximately 0.4 parts per million (0.4 milligrams per liter, mg/L). Current practice is to add fluoride to bring the fluoride concentration up to 1.0 parts per million (1 mg/L), within the existing range that experts say is necessary to protect teeth against decay.

## *Is the level of fluoride in my water safe?*

**A** Fluoride in drinking water is regulated by the USEPA through the Safe Drinking Water Act. Multiple levels of checks and double-checks are included in the fluoride system, including failsafe devices and procedures at the injection sites plus daily testing by College Station's certified Water Operators. The amount of fluoride in College Station's finished drinking water is far below the EPA's maximum level of 4 parts per million (4 mg/L). Fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

## *Does College Station plan to discontinue or decrease fluoridation in its drinking water?*

**A** For over fifty years, the U.S. Public Health Service has endorsed the practice of adding fluoride to drinking water for dental health at doses of 0.7 to 1.2 mg/L in colder climates, on the assumption that people in warmer climates drink more water and therefore receive more fluoride. In January 2011, the Department of Health & Human Services proposed lowering the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water to 0.7 mg/L. College Station will review the new HHS parameters as well as recommendations from the American Dental Association and American Water Works Association before a decision is made about how best to proceed with drinking water fluoridation. College Station's fluoridation equipment can easily be adjusted to meet the proposed recommendation of 0.7 mg/L.

## *Can fluoride be removed from my drinking water?*

**A** Point-of-use reverse osmosis systems can remove dissolved minerals – including fluoride and sodium from drinking water. Customers can purchase reverse osmosis filtration systems that filter the water. These reverse osmosis systems are available in under-sink models. It is important to note, however, that since College Station's drinking water meets all Safe Drinking Water Act standards, there is no health-based reason to filter the water from your tap, although customers may wish to filter for aesthetic reasons.



## **College Station is a Water Sense Partner**

College Station Water Services has teamed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program to help consumers save water for future generations and reduce costs on their utility bills.

WaterSense aims to decrease indoor and outdoor water use through water-efficient products and simple water-saving practices. The program encourages customers to look for WaterSense labeled products, which have been independently certified for efficiency and performance, and promotes water-saving techniques that reduce stress on water systems and the environment.



## **Using Too Much Water? Get Your Head Examined!**

Is your sprinkler system giving you a headache? Do you have nightmares of being chased by mutant sprinkler heads?

July is *Smart Irrigation Month*. Sign up for a free irrigation check-up today! This service is available to residential and commercial customers with an automatic in-ground irrigation system. A check-up includes looking for broken or misdirected sprinkler heads, leaks, a review of how your irrigation controller works, and suggested run times for your landscape. To schedule a free residential irrigation check-up, call **979.764.6223** or email [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov) and put "Irrigation Check-Up" in the Subject line.

To learn more about smart irrigation and simple ways to save water in the landscape, visit [www.smartirrigationmonth.org](http://www.smartirrigationmonth.org).

